



**HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER
OF THE REPUBLIC OF ARTSAKH**



AD HOC REPORT

**ON VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF THE ARTSAKH PEOPLE BY AZERBAIJAN
IN AUGUST 2022**

STEPANAKERT – 2022

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Introduction

On September 27, 2020, Azerbaijan launched full-scale military aggression against the ethnic Armenian population of Artsakh (aka Nagorno Karabakh), grossly violating the fundamental principle of the UN Charter on the prohibition of use and threat of force, as well as the norms of the Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law. Nonetheless, Azerbaijani aggression has not been condemned by the international community, and, encouraged by impunity, Azerbaijani authorities continue to use force as an important tool for their ambitions for the territory of Artsakh and the repression of the people living there.

Azerbaijan regularly violates the cease-fire regime established by the 2020 November 9 Trilateral Statement (hereinafter also referred to as the “Statement”), resorting to provocations of various natures. Violations are carried out not only with small-caliber firearms but also by using large-caliber weapons, artillery, and attack drones. Time by time, the scale of escalation sharply increases, turning into open military aggression. Often, these violations are accompanied by targeting the civilian communities of Artsakh, infringing the residents' right to life, and mental and physical security. The escalation of August 2022 is another manifestation of the abovementioned behavior of Azerbaijan, the details of which are presented in the first section of this report.

On August 2, 2022, President of Artsakh Arayik Harutyunyan in the expanded sitting of the Security Council stated that Azerbaijan, through the Russian peacekeepers, sent a letter to the Armenian side, informing that they are planning to change the route of the Corridor. Azerbaijan’s illegal demand, the fundamentally illegal steps taken to enforce the demand, and the existential importance of the Lachine Corridor are presented in detail in the second section of this report. On November 9, 2020, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and President of the Russian Federation issued a trilateral statement that clearly establishes the Lachin Corridor (hereinafter also referred to as the “Corridor”) connecting the Republic of Artsakh to the Republic of Armenia. The Corridor has existential importance for the people of Artsakh, thus even a one-day disruption of its operation will lead to a humanitarian catastrophe.

As a result of the 2020 November 9 Statement, all the civilian settlements of the Kashatagh region of Artsakh, except Berdzor, Aghavno, Nerkin Sus and Qaregah, came under Azerbaijani control. As a result of changing the route of the Corridor the mentioned communities also come under Azerbaijani control. The residents of the mentioned communities have to leave their homes to avoid a massacre, torture, and inhumane treatment. Some of the residents move their family graves to save them from destruction and desecration. To save cultural values from Azerbaijani vandalism, the authorities of Artsakh are evacuating them. The forcible displacement of the residents of Berdzor,

Aghavno, and Sus communities under the threat of force by Azerbaijan is presented in detail in the third section of this report.

The existence of huge volumes of hate speech and other manifestations of Armenophobia is not something new. Sometimes there is a sharp increase due to various incidents. The escalation in August 2022 is not an exception. From its very first days, the Azerbaijani media has been flooded with hate speech by state officials and the publication of anti-Armenian videos and photos by private users. Some manifestations are presented in the fourth section of this report.

Peacekeeping missions have become an inherent part of the current world order. It is common to provide peacekeepers with a mandate that specifies the principles and functions of the mission. The Russian peacekeeping forces deployed in Artsakh under the 2020 November 9 Statement are not provided with any mandate specifically articulating its functions, but for the Statement itself. As a result, the essence of the peacekeeping mission is sometimes partially undermined and the rights of the people of Artsakh are endangered. This is described in detail in the fifth section of this report.

The report was prepared based on studies conducted by the Human Rights Defender's Office, on the visits to various communities, educational and health institutions, citizens' houses, private conversations with citizens, and information received from state-authorized bodies.

Section 1. Violations of the ceasefire regime and infringements of the rights of the civilian population

On November 9, 2020, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia, and President of the Russian Federation issued a trilateral statement on a complete ceasefire and termination of all hostilities in the area of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.¹ After the issuance of the statement, President of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin mentioned that they proceeded from the assumption that the agreements reached would create the necessary conditions for a lasting and full-scale settlement of the crisis over Nagorno-Karabakh on a fair basis and in the interests of the people of Armenia and Azerbaijan.²

According to the 1st point of the Statement “A complete ceasefire and termination of all hostilities in the area of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is declared starting 12:00 am (midnight) Moscow time on November 10, 2020. The Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Armenia, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties,” shall stop in their current positions.”³

Despite this, Azerbaijan violates the term of the “complete ceasefire and termination of all hostilities” enshrined in the 1st point of the Statement on a regular basis, as a result of which people are killed and the basic rights necessary for the existence and living of humans are violated and suppressed. It is worth mentioning that these violations are systematic and widespread.

The military, psychological and economic threats and terrorizing activities of the Azerbaijani side have become notably active since February-March 2022. If previously the Azerbaijani armed forces mostly used small-caliber firearms, starting from March 2022, the terrorizing activities have been carried out also by large-caliber weapons. The recent case of targeting civilian communities was recorded on July 28, 2022, when the Azerbaijani side opened fire in the direction of the villages of Karmir Shouka and Taghavard of Artsakh’s Martouni region. The shooting lasted for about 20 minutes. As a result, the bullets fell in the residential areas of the villages. The window of the resident’s house was hit in Karmir Shouka. Another 8 bullets were found in the yard of the same house.

¹ Statement by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation, President of Russia, 10.11.2020, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64384>

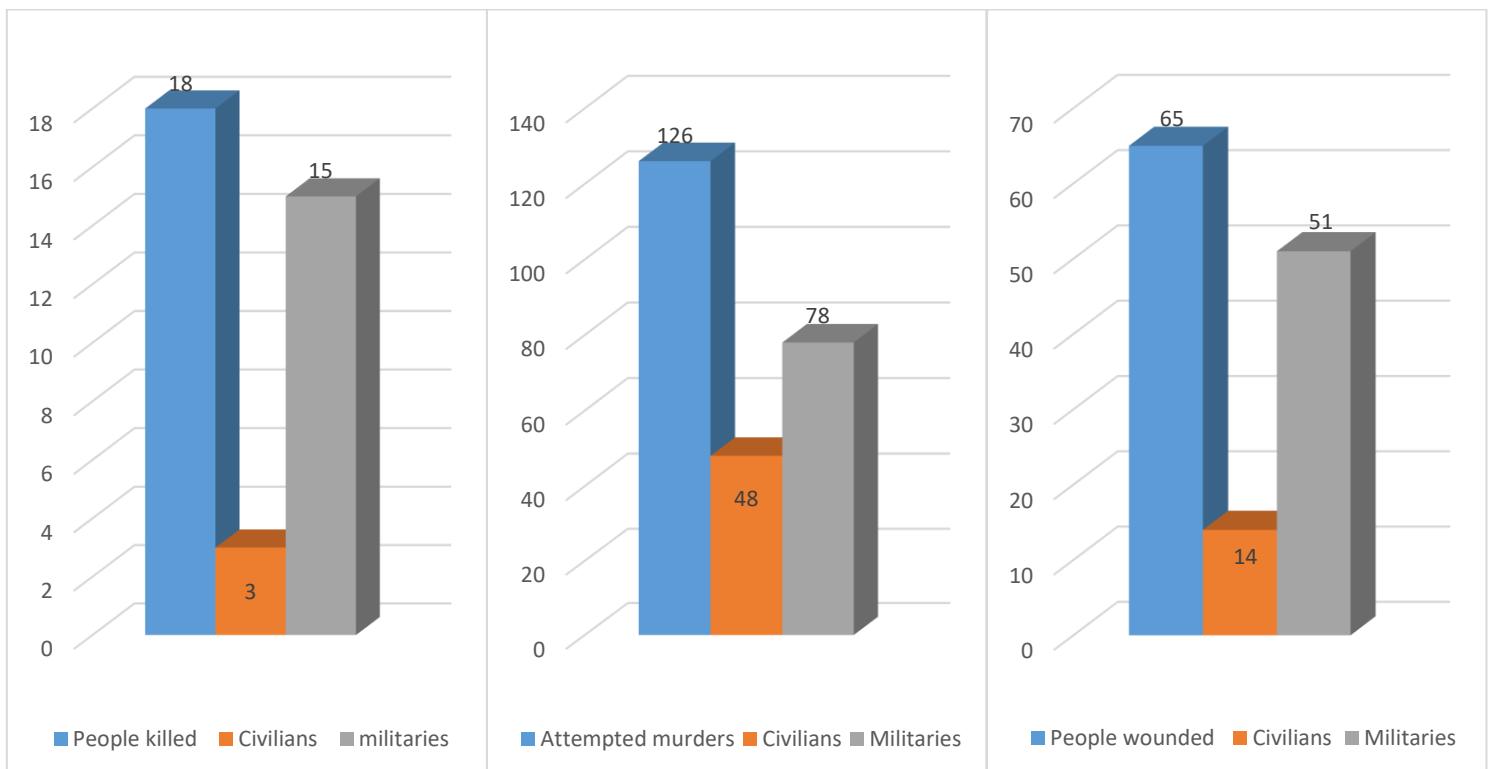
² Statement by the President of Russia, President of Russia, 10.11.2020, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64381>

³ Statement by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation, President of Russia, 10.11.2020, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64384>



Picture 1. A house hit by the Azerbaijani shooting in Karmir Shouka

During the 22 months following the declaration of the ceasefire, grave breaches of the ceasefire regime by Azerbaijan were recorded, resulting in human casualties not only among the servicemen of the Defense Army of Artsakh Republic but also among the civilian population. After November 9, 2020, more than 112 crimes were committed against the population of Artsakh from the Azerbaijani military positions located in the vicinity of Armenian settlements, causing human casualties and huge material damage. Here are the more detailed statistics: 3 civilians and 15 military servicemen were killed, 126 persons were subjected to attempted murders (48 civilians, 78 militaries), and 65 people (14 civilians, 51 militaries) were wounded or subjected to violence.



Under the threat of the use of force, the Azerbaijani side hinders agricultural work and the normal daily life of the civilian population of about 30 peaceful communities of Artsakh that are located near the line of contact.

Despite the fact, that under the November 9 Statement the Parties should have stopped in the positions where they had been, one month after the declaration of the Statement, as a result of Azerbaijan's attack, the villages of Hin Tagher and Khtsaberd of the Hadrut region of Artsakh came under the Azerbaijani occupation. As a result of that aggression, 9 servicemen of the Defense Army of the Republic of Artsakh were killed⁴ and 62 servicemen were captured, some of whom are illegally held in Azerbaijani prisons till today.⁵ The Azerbaijani side initiated illegal and groundless judicial proceedings, sentenced them to imprisonment, and presents them as terrorists.⁶

Another aggression that led to the gross violations of human rights was launched by Azerbaijan in March 2022, against Karaglukh height, Parukh, and Khramort villages of the Askeran region of Artsakh. As a result, 3 servicemen of the Defense Army of the Republic of Artsakh were killed, and 14 servicemen were wounded to various degrees.⁷ Before that aggression, Azerbaijan deliberately disrupted the operation of the only gas pipeline coming from Armenia to Artsakh. Resulted humanitarian problems in Artsakh have been recorded in the ad hoc report of the human rights defender of the Republic of Artsakh.⁸ Furthermore, the Azerbaijani side used psychological terrorization measures, calling on the population of Khramort, Parukh, Karmir Shouka, Taghavard, Nor Shen, and other civilian communities to leave their homes, otherwise threatening to use force.⁹

⁴A criminal case has been initiated in connection with the killing of 9 servicemen in the territory of Old Tagher and Khtsaberd, Azatutyun Radio, 18.12. 2020, <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/31008064.html>

⁵ Artsakh Defense Army, [@Karabakh_MoD], 16.12.2020, On Dec 15, under yet unclear circumstances, we lost contact w/personnel of the Defense Army, located at mil. positions in the direction of Hin Tagher & Khtsaberd. W/mediation of the Russian PK forces, we're checking the possibility that the Armenian soldiers were captured. [tweet], Twitter,

[https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1339152044821786625?s=20&t=m\]g-k4dpSj26ZHL57XGz3g](https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1339152044821786625?s=20&t=m]g-k4dpSj26ZHL57XGz3g),

Artsakh Defense Army, [@Karabakh_MoD], 17.12.2020, The bodies of 9 servicemen of the #Artsakh Defense Army found in the area near the combat positions of Hin Tagher- Khtsaberd villages were handed over to the Armenian side by the Russian peacekeepers. Steps are taken to find out circumstances of their death and identities [tweet], Twitter,

[https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1339609674941906944?s=20&t=m\]g-k4dpSj26ZHL57XGz3g](https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1339609674941906944?s=20&t=m]g-k4dpSj26ZHL57XGz3g)

⁶ Interim Report on Malicious Prosecutions by Azerbaijan of Captured Armenian Servicemen and Civilians, Human Rights Ombudsman Of The Republic Of Artsakh, 23.11.2021,

<https://artsakhombuds.am/hy/document/879>

⁷ Artsakh Defense Army, [@Karabakh_MoD], 25.03.2022, On March 25, as a result of the provocations of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, particularly the use of Bayraktar TB2 attack drone in the eastern direction of the line of contact, servicemen Davit Mirzoyan(1978), Ishkhan Ohanyan (1994), Ararat Tevosyan(1990) were fatally wounded [tweet], Twitter,

[https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1507416637456138262?s=20&t=m\]g-k4dpSj26ZHL57XGz3g](https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1507416637456138262?s=20&t=m]g-k4dpSj26ZHL57XGz3g)

⁸ Interim Report on Violations of the Rights of Artsakh People by Azerbaijan in February-March, Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Artsakh, 18.03.2022,<https://artsakhombuds.am/hy/document/910>

⁹ Id.

As a result of the criminal behavior of Azerbaijan, the normal daily life of the civilian population of the Askeran's Parukh village has been disrupted. No civilian lives there. Besides, the majority of the civilian population (about 200 people) of neighboring Khramort, which was evacuated at the time of the aggression, has not returned to their homes yet. Also, Azerbaijan has taken control of the part of Karaglukh height, keeping the civilian population of the adjacent villages under constant threat and danger.

Azerbaijan initiated new large-scale violations of the ceasefire regime at the beginning of August 2022. On August 1, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces resorted to provocation to cross the line of contact in the direction of northern and north-western parts of Artsakh.¹⁰ In the following days, with increasing scales of the escalation, the Azerbaijani Armed Forces targeted military bases and positions of the Defense Army of the Republic of Artsakh, using grenade launchers and UAVs.¹¹ As a result, 2 servicemen of the Defense Army were killed and 19 servicemen were wounded to various degrees.¹² Before initiating the aggression, Azerbaijan resorted to manipulations in the Media, declaring that the Armenian side violated the ceasefire regime. The Armenian sources have denied this disinformation. By means of this, Azerbaijan, before undertaking the next aggression, tries to provide grounds for the Media for resorting to military operations.

From the information taken especially from Azerbaijani sources, it can be concluded that Azerbaijan's aggressive actions aim to establish control over various heights located near civilian communities, vital infrastructure, and roads, to directly monitor and target civilian communities and roads of Artsakh.¹³ The military attacks against Karaglukh height¹⁴

¹⁰Artsakh Defense Army, [@Karabakh_MoD], 01.08.2022, On August 1, the units of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces made attempts to cross the line of contact in the northern & NE directions. Artsakh Defense Army stopped these attempts. No casualties from the Armenian side. Situation remains tense. Russian Peacekeepers are informed[tweet], Twitter,

https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1554143664523427841?s=20&t=ll_Ous23jOi4fwljM7E61Q

¹¹Artsakh Defense Army, [@Karabakh_MoD], 03.08.2022, On August 3, from 9 am, the units of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces grossly violated the ceasefire by using grenade launchers and UAVs in the direction of the Defense Forces positions. 7 Defense Army servicemen were injured. 1 of them is in critical condition[tweet], Twitter,

https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1554793378700840961?s=20&t=mJg-k4dpSj26ZHL57XGz3g

¹²Artsakh Defense Army, [@Karabakh_MoD], 03.08.2022, As of 6 p.m., the operational tactical situation along the line of contact between Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijan is relatively stable. As a result of the ceasefire violation by the Azerbaijani Armed Forces, 2 contract servicemen of the Defense Army were killed, 14 wounded[tweet], Twitter,

https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1554853061465628679?s=20&t=mJg-k4dpSj26ZHL57XGz3g

¹³Azerbaijani army takes control over Mount Buzdukh, surrounding heights, Caliber.az, 06.08.2022, <https://caliber.az/ru/post/99169/>

¹⁴Artsakh Defense Army, [@Karabakh_MoD], 25.03.2022, On March 24, Azerbaijani Armed Forces violated the ceasefire and infiltrated into the area of responsibility of the Russian peacekeeping mission, taking control of the village of Parukh & adjusted positions, then trying to advance in the eastern part of #Artsakh/#Karabakh. 1/3[tweet], Twitter,

https://twitter.com/Karabakh_MoD/status/1507243308115972118?s=20&t=mJg-k4dpSj26ZHL57XGz3g

in March 2022 and against Sartsasar (Buzdukh) and Sari baba¹⁵ on August 2022 are proof of it.

Another aim of the aggression launched by Azerbaijan in August 2022 was to force the Armenian side to withdraw from the current road of the Lachin Corridor which connects the Republic of Artsakh with the Republic of Armenia and to use the alternative road. Azerbaijan's illegal demand is addressed in detail in Section 2 of this Report.

It is noteworthy that the President of Azerbaijan himself does not hide his admiration for the policy of "solving issues" by the use of force. For example, during one of the public speeches he mentioned: "Today, the power factor is in the foreground. I said this ten years ago. All my speeches are available in the media. I said that international law does not work."¹⁶ The escalation in August 2022 is a new manifestation of Aliyev's conviction, a continuation of uncondemned aggression.

The existing facts prove that the aggressive actions regularly initiated by Azerbaijan are intended to terrorize the civilian population of Artsakh, create unfavorable conditions for life and force the people of Artsakh to leave their homes in an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear. By use and threat of force, Azerbaijan forces the Armenian side to yield on various issues, making the already vulnerable security situation of the civilian population of Artsakh even more vulnerable.

¹⁵Information Bulletin of the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation on the activities of the Russian peacekeeping contingent in the zone of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (as of August 03, 2022), Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation, 03.08.2022,
https://mil.ru/russian_peacekeeping_forces/bulletins/more.htm?id=12431535@egNews

¹⁶Ilham Aliyev and First Lady Mehriban Aliyeva attended opening ceremony of first stage of "Smart Village" project in Zangilan district, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 27.05.2022,
<https://president.az/en/articles/view/56208>

Section 2. The existential importance of the Corridor connecting the Republic of Artsakh (Nagorno Karabakh) to the Republic of Armenia (Lachin Corridor)

As a result of the 44-day war, many civilian communities and infrastructures came under the Azerbaijani occupation. 2020 November 9 Statement clearly established the Lachin corridor. According to the 6th point of the Statement: “The Republic of Armenia shall return the Kalbajar District to the Republic of Azerbaijan by November 15, 2020, and the Lachin District by December 1, 2020. The Lachin Corridor (5 km wide), which will provide a connection between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia while not passing through the territory of Shushi, shall remain under the control of the Russian Federation peacemaking forces. As agreed by the Parties, within the next three years, a plan will be outlined for the construction of a new route via the Lachin Corridor, to provide a connection between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, and the Russian peacemaking forces shall be subsequently relocated to protect the route.”¹⁷

The road passing through the Corridor which is under the control of the Russian peacekeeping forces is the only road connecting the Republic of Artsakh with the Republic of Armenia and, thus, has existential importance for the Armenian population of Artsakh. Under the existing conditions, the Corridor is the only way for the people of Artsakh to communicate with the outside world and is irreplaceable from a humanitarian point of view. The Corridor makes possible the movement of people, the import of goods necessary for the food security of the population, the shipment of other types of humanitarian goods to Artsakh, when necessary, the transfer of the people of Artsakh to receive medical assistance in the Republic of Armenia, etc. Furthermore, the infrastructure such as electric wires, communication cables, and gas pipeline coming from the Republic of Armenia to Artsakh pass along the road. It is clear from the abovementioned, that even a one-day disruption of the normal operation of the Lachin corridor is fraught with the creation of a humanitarian crisis in Artsakh. Taking into account these concerns and the need to prevent possible provocations by Azerbaijan, it was articulated in the November 9 Statement that it shall be under the control of Russian peacekeepers and “The Republic of Azerbaijan shall guarantee the security of persons, vehicles, and cargo moving along the Lachin Corridor in both directions.”¹⁸

The Statement also affirmed, that “As agreed by the Parties, within the next three years, a plan will be outlined for the construction of a new route via the Lachin Corridor,

¹⁷ Statement by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation, President of Russia, 10.11.2020, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64384>

¹⁸ Id.

to provide a connection between Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia, and the Russian peacemaking forces shall be subsequently relocated to protect the route.”¹⁹ Hence, to complete the change of the route a 3-year period and a plan agreed upon by all Parties are required.

Nonetheless, less than 2 years after the issuance of the Statement, Azerbaijan, through the Russian peacekeepers, sent a letter to the Armenian side, informing that they are planning to change the route.²⁰

It is worth mentioning that the construction of the alternative route is not completed. The Azerbaijani side has built a road that reaches the border of the Republic of Armenia through the Hin Shen and Mets Shen villages of Artsakh, bypassing Berdzor and Aghavno. However, the continuation of the road which should pass through the territory of the Republic of Armenia, particularly through the Kornidzor village of Syunik province, connect with Tegh village of Syunik province, and exit to the highway, has not been built yet. The Government of Armenia is planning to complete the construction of that road by the spring of 2023.²¹ Besides, the construction of communication wires, high-voltage power lines, and gas pipeline along the assumed new route has not yet started. It means that at this moment there is no alternative complete road to replace the current and only road passing through the Lachin Corridor. In such conditions, Azerbaijan’s demand is a clear violation of not only the November 9 Statement but also of several norms and principles of international law. It is fraught with real and serious threats of violation of fundamental human rights.



Picture 2. The map of Artsakh after the 44-day war

¹⁹ Id.

²⁰ President Harutyunyan chaired an expanded sitting of the Security Council, President of the ARTSAKH REPUBLIC, 02.08.2022, <http://president.nkr.am/am/news/consultations/5602/>

²¹ Construction of Lachin alternative road to be completed by spring – minister, ARMENPRESS, 04.08.2022, <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1089665/>

It is noteworthy that the Azerbaijani side is informed that the continuation of the alternative road in Armenia's territory is not built yet, while not only insists on its illegal demand but also for the implementation of it initiated another military aggression against the people of Artsakh, from August 1, 2022. Indeed, to fulfill its demands, Azerbaijan is resorting to the use and the threat of force prohibited by international law, directly threatening and grossly violating the rights of the people of Artsakh, including the right to life.

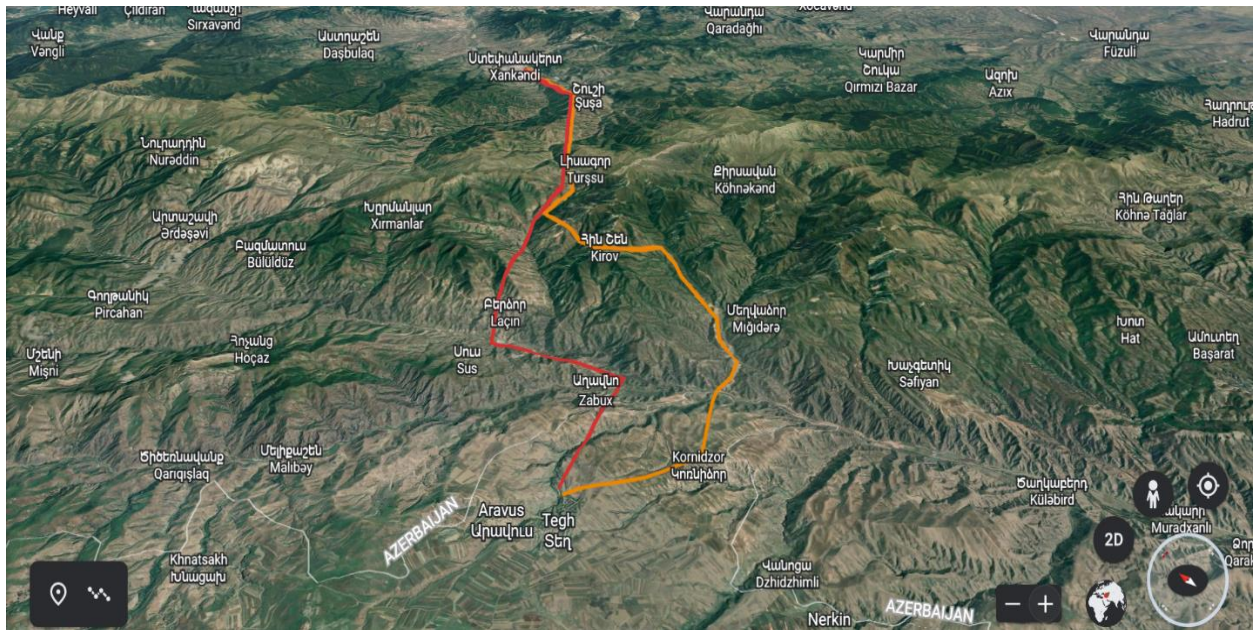
The change of the route of the Corridor will increase Artsakh's infrastructural vulnerability, drastically increasing the risk of deliberate disruption of Artsakh's communications, electricity and gas supplies by Azerbaijan: One of the grounds for the concern is the explosion of the only gas pipeline entering Artsakh, and the intentional disruption of gas supply in March 2022.²² Notably, the President of Azerbaijan after the restoration of the gas pipeline stated: "We have now restored the gas supply, and the Armenians must appreciate it. We have simply shown goodwill. If we didn't want to, we wouldn't restore it. Who can say anything to us? Did we have to restore it? No! We have restored it and hope that they will also understand that they are citizens of Azerbaijan, that they must and will live under the Azerbaijani flag. The sooner they understand this, the better for them. This is why we did that. We showed humanism."²³

Furthermore, Azerbaijan is making purposeful attempts to change the legal status of the Corridor, turning it from a corridor into a usual road and placing checkpoints on the road for carrying out control. All these attempts are contradicting not only the terms of the November 9 Statement but also all the proposals formed in the negotiation process of the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict. Moreover, not waiting for the change of the route of the Corridor, the representatives of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces entered the Lachin Corridor, and the communities of Berdzor, Sus and Aghavno on August 26, 2022, thus violating the legal regime of the corridor stipulated by the Statement²⁴.

²²Artsakh Ombudsman, Due to the damage to the main gas pipeline coming from the Republic of Armenia to Artsakh, the whole territory of Artsakh is deprived of gas supply, Facebook, 08.03.2022, [https://www.facebook.com/ArtsakhOmbuds/posts/pfbid02BJbGhMDAfbMRXeCWRoUmrwvrdXKiq8ufu6x8jEwhaLkfTme2Ho3dESUijCr5LJYI?_cft__\[0\]=AZVrz10x0cF6_-j2BvZBxLsEkU7ZuWu1rjruiRVcM4F5kDsRwE0dZcEKTUjcdSN9ITP4SmMkyXbQP7ljFAuca5tW9PBuXJ2UzEVmT-yILUtWG-9oya4b96oKNAL-YsfduerYVMkDk9hxd72wmj2ZlxDkvGFopC3hh_oN6gA4cKZfhiOV_hJInCR4L1cVV7p1N30ESYsgOXcFUBHqLEjrcRL&_tn_=%2C0%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/ArtsakhOmbuds/posts/pfbid02BJbGhMDAfbMRXeCWRoUmrwvrdXKiq8ufu6x8jEwhaLkfTme2Ho3dESUijCr5LJYI?_cft__[0]=AZVrz10x0cF6_-j2BvZBxLsEkU7ZuWu1rjruiRVcM4F5kDsRwE0dZcEKTUjcdSN9ITP4SmMkyXbQP7ljFAuca5tW9PBuXJ2UzEVmT-yILUtWG-9oya4b96oKNAL-YsfduerYVMkDk9hxd72wmj2ZlxDkvGFopC3hh_oN6gA4cKZfhiOV_hJInCR4L1cVV7p1N30ESYsgOXcFUBHqLEjrcRL&_tn_=%2C0%2CP-R)

²³ Ilham Aliyev chaired meeting on results of first quarter of 2022, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 12.04.2022, <https://president.az/az/articles/view/55780>

²⁴ New video footage of the entry of the units of the Azerbaijan Army into the city of Lachin, the villages of Zabukh and Sus, https://caliber.az/ru/post/103636/?fbclid=IwAR2_KsWRRQZODtP9RHOKPtYVTI1c7ECZGpleAjKx46iwHGhp9nrSv3i_dY8



Picture 3. Current and new roads of the Lachin Corridor

Any change in the legal status of the Corridor connecting Artsakh to Armenia will make the already vulnerable security situation of the people of Artsakh worse and is fraught with the complete depopulation of Artsakh.

Section 3. The displacement of the civilian population under the threat of force

According to the Statement of November 9, 2020,²⁵ all the civilian communities of the Kashatagh region of Artsakh, except for those located within the borders of the 5 km wide Lachin corridor (Berdzor, Aghavno, and Sus), came under the control of Azerbaijan. As, to the Statement, the Russian peacekeeping troops took control of the Corridor, and a part of the population of Berdzor, Aghavno, and Sus, who were displaced during the war and found refuge in Armenia, returned and continued to live in their native communities.

The city of Berdzor is the administrative center of the Kashatagh district of the Republic of Artsakh, the population of which before the Azerbaijani aggression was 2058 people.²⁶ The city had a local governing institution and all the other institutions necessary to organize the educational, health, and cultural life of the community. As of 2015, the Aghavno village had about 300-350 population.²⁷ The population of Nerkin Sus was 94 people, and the population of Qaregah was 185 people.²⁸ These communities had all the necessary institutions as well.

As of August 2022, 170 civilians (30 families) were living in Berdzor and 176 civilians (50 families) in Aghavno²⁹:

On August 1st, 2022, Azerbaijan launched aggression in the direction of northern and north-western parts of Artsakh. The next day, the President of Artsakh Arayik Harutyunyan in the expanded sitting of the Security Council stated that Azerbaijan, through the Russian peacekeepers, sent a letter to the Armenian side, with the demand of changing the route of the Lachin Corridor.³⁰

Considering the escalation and the military offensives instigated by Azerbaijan, as well as the result of the negotiations held through the mediation of the Russian peacekeeping forces, it was decided that the current route of the Lachin Corridor should be changed with the deadline set for August 25.³¹ Then, the deadline was extended until September 1.

²⁵Statement by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation, President of Russia, 10.11.2020, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64384>

²⁶Nagorno-Karabakh - All Places: 2008, 2009, 2010 estimation, Population statistics of Eastern Europe & former USSR, <http://pop-stat.mashke.org/nkr-estimation.htm>

²⁷ Id.

²⁸ Id.

²⁹What ultimatum did Azerbaijan present before the attack and what will be the new route connecting Artsakh to Armenia?, Horizon News, 06.08.2022, <https://www.shantnews.am/news/view/1177334.html>

³⁰ President Harutyunyan chaired an expanded sitting of the Security Council, President of the ARTSAKH REPUBLIC, 02.08.2022, <http://president.nkr.am/am/news/consultations/5602/>

³¹ What ultimatum did Azerbaijan present before the attack and what will be the new route connecting Artsakh to Armenia?, Horizon News, 06.08.2022, <https://www.shantnews.am/news/view/1177334.html>

Under the threat of force by Azerbaijan and taking into account the relocation of the Russian peacekeeping forces on the new route of the Corridor as well as with the transfer of Berdzor, Aghavno, and Sus communities under Azerbaijani control, the authorities of Artsakh, carried out civil protection actions³² to move the civilian population of those communities to a safer place.

The UN Charter provides that states shall refrain from the threat or use of force. Nonetheless, on August 1, 2022, Azerbaijan initiated military offensives intending to implement its illegal demands. Under the threat of force, the authorities of Artsakh have had to make concessions. Undoubtedly, this is a clear violation of the norms of international law, with a consequence of large-scale violations of the rights of the civilian population.

Azerbaijan's state policy of Armenophobia, as well as the war crimes (murders, tortures, mutilations, etc.) committed against Armenians by Azerbaijani soldiers in the territories that came under their control during the 2016 April war³³ and the 44-day war,³⁴ leave no doubt, that the civilian population of Berdzor, Aghavno, and Sus would either be killed or captured and subjected to torture in case of coming under Azerbaijani control. Indeed, this is a situation, when the authorities of Artsakh, under the threat of force by Azerbaijan, being unable to guarantee the safety of civilians, carry out civil defense measures, displacing the population.

As a result of the decisions made at the political and military level, people's daily life is disrupted. They have lost everything built for decades: their houses, property, and jobs. This is proof of how human rights are subordinated to the decisions made under the use and threat of force by Azerbaijan.

It is also noteworthy that on August 19, 2022, based on Armenia's application to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) for interim measures to protect the rights of civilians in certain settlements of the Republic of Artsakh the ECHR confirmed the measures of September 29, 2020, and the expanded interim measure of November 3 the same year, stating that it remains in force, calling on the parties "to refrain from such actions that could lead to a violation of the rights of civilians protected by the Convention, including putting at risk their rights protected by Articles 2, 3 and 8 of the Convention." The Court further noted that the decision of September 29, 2020, which is still in force, applies to the events referred to by the Government of Armenia, such as the armed attacks

³² Id.

³³ Interim Public Report Atrocities Committed by Azerbaijani Military Forces Against the Civilian Population of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Servicemen of the Nagorno Karabakh Defense Army on 2-5 April 2016, Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Artsakh, <https://www.artsakhombuds.am/hy/document/560>

³⁴ Interim Report on the Cases of the Killing of Civilians in Artsakh by the Armed Forces of (Updated on September 27, 2021), Human Rights Ombudsman of The Republic Of Artsakh, 27.09.2021, <https://www.artsakhombuds.am/hy/document/785>, General Report, Human Rights Ombudsman of the Republic of Artsakh, <https://www.artsakhombuds.am/hy/general-report>

on peaceful settlements, and threats to the displacement of people in Berdzor and Aghavno communities.³⁵

However, due to the lack of real security guarantees, people of these communities packed their belongings and evacuated to other communities of Artsakh or Armenia.^{36 37}

"I wish Aghavno and its people would be raised to the sky and the battle for this land would end. Somewhere else, women sit down and talk about beautiful clothes and jewelry. We sit down, drink a cup of coffee and ask ourselves, 'What's going to happen to us?'", tells the resident of Aghavno Mariam Hakobyan.



Picture 4. Residents of Aghavno pack their belongings to move to other places

³⁵ The Office of the Commissioner for International Legal Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, On August 19, 2022, this year based on Armenia's application to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) for interim measures to protect the rights of civilians in certain settlements of the Republic of Artsakh the ECHR confirmed the measures of September 29, 2020 and the expanded interim measure of November 3 the same year, stating that it remains in force, Facebook, 19.08.2022

<https://www.facebook.com/INTLEGALARM>

³⁶ CivilNet, [Aghavno. the moods after the grievous news of leaving the village], 07.08.2022,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GL0cMMemud8>

³⁷ 5TV, "Where are you going". Trucks can be seen in Berdzor and Aghavno, but the future is not, Facebook, 17.08.2022, <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=514565853770375>

Some residents have exhumed their family graves and have moved the remains to other places, because of fear that the Azerbaijanis will vandalize those graves, as they did in some occupied territories after the ceasefire.³⁸



Picture 5. Cemetery in Berdzor after exhumations

«After the declaration of ceasefire, we saw what Azerbaijanis do with our cemeteries. They destroy the gravestones and use them as a material for construction. They built roads over cemeteries. We don't want our family graves to suffer the same fate. That's why we exhume them. Graves of our relatives should be where we are», tells a 55-year-old resident of Berdzor A.M.

To save the Armenian religious and cultural values from Azerbaijani vandalism, some of them have been evacuated to other places. In total, 47 khachkars and monuments

³⁸ Ian Lindsay, Adam T. Smith, Lori Khatchadourian, Caucasus Heritage Watch, Monitoring Report #2, p. 16, Sep. 2021, <https://caucasusheritage.cornell.edu/index.php/report#>

CaucasusHeritageWatch,[@CaucasusHW], 04.05.2021, ALERT: An Armenian cemetery in the village of Mets Tagher/Böyük Tağlar was recently destroyed. The cemetery was founded in the early 19th c. and was in use when Armenians evacuated the village in 2020. Satellite imagery shows its complete destruction. Signs of bulldozer scars.1/3 [tweet], Twitter,

<https://twitter.com/CaucasusHW/status/1389639754602491904>,

A criminal case has been initiated in Artsakh on the facts of Azerbaijanis vandalizing the Armenian cemetery in Askeran region, Live News, 16.06.2021, <https://livenews.am/press/2021/115714/16/15/09/>

were evacuated from the Corridor and the settlements located in it³⁹. The churches of Surb Hambardzman (Holy Ascension, Berdzor, 1998) and Surb Nahatyakyats (Holy Martyrs, Aghavno, 2002), many khachkars dedicated to the victims of the Armenian Genocide, the 1988 earthquake victims, to the memory of soldiers died in the liberation struggle, in memory of the fallen soldiers during the Four-Day war, as well as many other memorials and springs are located in the Corridor.⁴⁰



Picture 6. The church of Surb Hambardzman (Holy Ascension, Berdzor)



Picture 7. The church of Surb Nahatyakyats (Holy Martyrs, Aghavno)

³⁹ [47 monuments of monumental art were evacuated from Berdzor, Aghavno, and Sus. Deputy Minister of Culture] Aravot Daily, August 22, 2022, <https://www.aravot.am/2022/08/22/1286604/>

⁴⁰The process of evacuation of monuments of the period of independence began in Berdzor, Aghavno and Sus, Monument Watch, 07.08.2022, <https://monumentwatch.org/hy/2022/08/07/%d5%a2%d5%a5%d6%80%d5%b1%d5%b8%d6%80%d5%b8%d6%82%d5%b4-%d5%a1%d5%b2%d5%a1%d5%be%d5%b6%d5%b8%d5%b5%d5%b8%d6%82%d5%b4-%d6%87-%d5%bd%d5%b8%d6%82%d5%bd%d5%b8%d6%82%d5%b4-%d5%bd%d5%af%d5%bd%d5%be%d5%a5/>



Picture 8. Khachkars (Cross-stone) in the territory of the Corridor

Numerous cases of vandalism of Armenian religious and cultural heritage by Azerbaijan have been recorded during and after the 44-day war.⁴¹ Even though, by its December 7, 2021, order the ICJ required Azerbaijan “to refrain from ... destroying Armenian cultural heritage or otherwise eliminating the existence of the historical Armenian cultural presence,⁴² however, Azerbaijan openly continues the erasure of Armenian cultural heritage and the policy of history distortion. For example, the Azerbaijani organization “Public Association for Monument Protection” published a photo of the project of turning the church of Surb Hambardzman into a mosque.⁴³

⁴¹ Monument watch/Monitoring and Alerts, <https://monumentwatch.org/en/monitoring-alerts/>

⁴² Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Armenia v. Azerbaijan), ICJ order, 07,12,2021, <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211207-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf>

⁴³Azerbaijan intends to turn church in Berdzor into mosque, News.am, 08.08.2022, https://news.am/arm/news/715370.html?fbclid=IwAR1Wb6BVsgGNRYPtN4wbzATkNRPIMHdMBQnkyHBRQLj_qYqx5vAwXvTvzAE



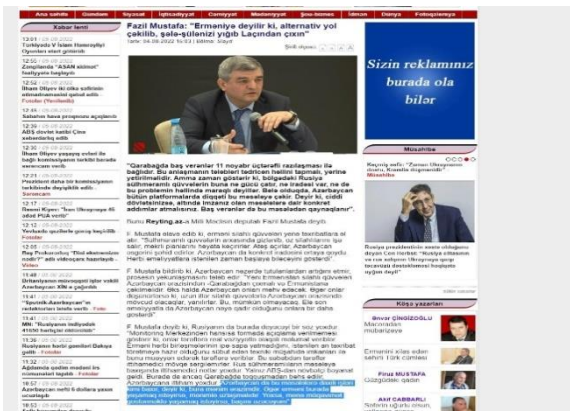
Picture 9. The project of turning the church of Surb Hambardzman into a mosque

As of August 25, the civilian residents were evacuated from all Armenian communities located in the Corridor. The representatives of the Azerbaijani Armed Forces entered those communities on August 26.

Section 4. Hate speech and other manifestations of Armenophobia

The aggression launched by Azerbaijan against the people of Artsakh in August 2022 has been accompanied by a drastic increase in hate speech and the threat of force, as well as other manifestations of Armenophobia at the state level and in the Media of Azerbaijan. Propaganda for the Azerbaijani criminal activities against Artsakh by spreading hatred and threat of force is carried out not only by private individuals, but also by members of the Parliament of Azerbaijan, former state officials, and other persons having public influence. Some examples of what is said are introduced below.

The member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan Fazil Mustafa in his interview to reyting.az said:



*"Azerbaijan considers these issues as its internal affairs and says that this is my territory. If an Armenian wants to live here, he/she must come to an agreement with me. Otherwise [Azerbaijan says], if he/she wants to live by resisting me, I will crush his head."*⁴⁴

Picture 10. Fazil Mustafa's interview to reyting.az

A member of the Milli Mejlis and the President of the "United People's Front" party Gudrat Hasanguliyev, in an interview with xalkcebhəsi.az, referred to the self-determination struggle of Armenians in Artsakh as bloody separatism sponsored by Armenia and stated that Azerbaijan should not accept the right to the peaceful life of Karabakh Armenians until Armenia renounces its territorial claims.

"Armenia should stop supporting its territorial claims against Azerbaijan, that is, the bloody separatism it has instigated in Karabakh. Unless this is the case, we should not grant them the right to a comfortable life. Otherwise, they will extend the negotiations for another 30 years. It will not be possible for ethnic Armenians to live in Azerbaijan if Armenia does

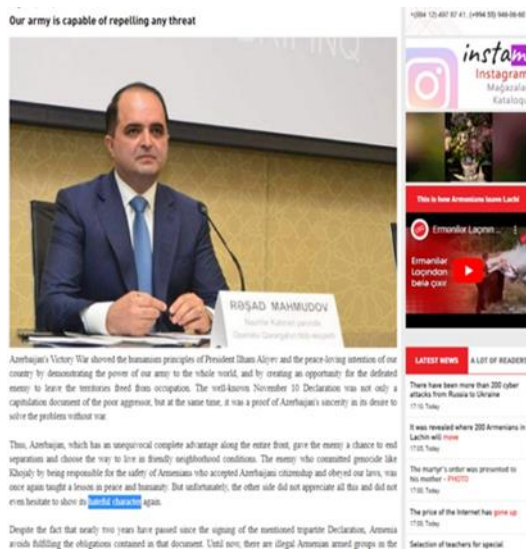
⁴⁴ Fazil Mustafa: "Armenia is told that an alternative road has been built, pack your bags and leave Lachin," [reyting, 04.08.2022, https://reyting.az/slayd/85835-fazil-mustafa-ermeniyə-deyilir-ki-alternativ-yol-çekilib-sele-sulenizi-yigib-lacından-cixin.html](https://reyting.az/slayd/85835-fazil-mustafa-ermeniyə-deyilir-ki-alternativ-yol-çekilib-sele-sulenizi-yigib-lacından-cixin.html)

not pursue a policy of peace and close neighborliness toward Azerbaijan. We must make sure that they do not forget it even for a second.”⁴⁵



Picture 11. Gudrat Hasanguliyev, interview, Khalqcebhesi.az

A member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan Rashad Mahmudov ("New Azerbaijan" party) using "disgusting essence" as a defining feature for Armenians, threatened with the use of force, saying the following: " Armenia should draw the necessary conclusions from all this and proceed to real work on immediately fulfilling the obligations it has taken. Otherwise, Azerbaijan is ready to show its power to ensure its sovereignty at any time.



Picture 12. Rashad Mahmudov, interview, Modern.az

As the leading state of the region, Azerbaijan has always confirmed that it is a supporter of peace and cooperation. If Armenia chooses another path, the only message for them is the slogan of the Commander-in-Chief: "The iron fist is on the ground!" The next blow may be more severe, and all the responsibility for this lies with the

⁴⁵Gudrat Hasanguliyev: "The President of Azerbaijan knows what we need to do to restore state sovereignty over Karabakh and does not want to keep this problem for future generations," Xalq cebhesi, 04.08.2022, <https://www.xalqcebhesi.az/news/politics/110634.html>

deranged political and military leadership of Armenia.⁴⁶

Armenia will never recover - Deputy



"Recent events at the front showed once again that Armenia has chosen the path of continuing provocations, not peace."

Modern.az reports that the MP of the Milli Majlis, Jeyhun Mammadov, said this while commenting on the recent events in Karabakh.

"President Ilham Aliyev has repeatedly warned Armenia that even the smallest provocation will be prevented very

Picture 13. Jeyhun Mammadov, interview,
Modern.az

Another member of the Parliament of Azerbaijan Jeyhun Mammadov has promoted the use and threat of force stating the following.

*"The recent events showed once again that Armenia has chosen the path of continuing provocations, not peace... Armenia will never be fixed. The iron fist must always be ready."*⁴⁷

Referring to the servicemen of the Defense Army of Artsakh as 'terrorists', Former Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Tofiq Zulfugarov stated:

**Tofiq Zulfugarov about the latest events:
"Processes are slowly moving from Karabakh to Zangezur"**

The Interview | Read: 8384 | 04 Aug 2022 11:14



In recent days, as a result of provocations by Armenia, the situation in the territories of Azerbaijan, where the Russian peacekeeping contingent is temporarily stationed, has become tense. It is true that the situation is stable at the moment, but the tension may rise again at any moment. As a result of provocations by Armenia, the martyrdom of soldier Anar Kazimov on August 3 forced the Azerbaijani Army to conduct the "Revenge" operation. Thus, the Azerbaijani Army retaliated against the illegal Armenian armed groups by carrying out an operation on the same day and did not shed the blood of our martyr.

At the same time, as a result of the "Revenge" operation, the Kirkhiz elevation, as well as Sanbaba along the Karabakh ridge of the Lesser Caucasus mountain range and a number of other important commanding elevations were taken under control. As part of the operation, several combat positions of illegal Armenian armed elements were destroyed, and an air strike

Picture 14. Tofiq Zulfugarov, interview,
Moderator.az

*"This should be a lesson to both the Armenian authorities and the so-called regime. Yerevan must fulfill its obligations - the terrorists must be removed from Karabakh, the junta must be disarmed, and the Zangezur corridor should be made available to Azerbaijan. These issues should be resolved either diplomatically or militarily... In general, the processes are slowly moving from Karabakh to Zangezur. This means that the current events are part of a larger scenario."*⁴⁸

⁴⁶ Our army is capable of repelling any threat, Modern.az, 04.08.2022, <https://modern.az/aktual/361910/azerbaycan-ordusu-lkemize-qarsi-her-hansi-bir-tehdidi-def-etmek-gucundedi/>

⁴⁷ Armenia will never recover - Deputy, Modern.az, 04.08.2022, <https://modern.az/read/361897/>

⁴⁸ Tofiq Zulfugarov about the latest events: "Processes are slowly moving from Karabakh to Zangezur," Moderator.az, 04.08.2022 <https://moderator.az/az/musahibe/539619/tofiq-zulfugarov-son-hadiseler-haqdaprocesler-yavas-yavas-qarabadan-zengezura-kecir/>

The monitoring of the Azerbaijani Media clearly shows that during the August aggression Azerbaijani political and public figures (Tamam Jafarova,⁴⁹ Vugar Rahimzade,⁵⁰ Chingiz Ganizade⁵¹, Yujel Qarauz⁵²) openly used hate speech, enmity, and intolerance towards Armenians, particularly towards the Armenian population of Artsakh, and support the Azerbaijani authorities' anti-Armenian policy.

At the same time, in a video widely spread on social networks, it can be seen how a person in the uniform of the Azerbaijani army first burned a human skull supposedly taken from an Armenian cemetery, and then tied it to a military vehicle, while other servicemen applauded the criminal act.⁵³



Picture 15. A person in the uniform of the Azerbaijani army is tying a human skull supposedly taken from an Armenian cemetery to a military vehicle

⁴⁹ "Azerbaijani Army has always taken the short of each of its martyrs in the hardest way and it will continue to be so," Moderator.az, 04.08.2022, <https://moderator.az/az/gundem/539618/azerbaycan-ordusu-her-bir-sehidinin-qisasini-her-zaman-en-air-sekilde-alib-ve-bundan-sonra-da-bele-olacaq/>

⁵⁰ Vugar Rahimzadeh: Azerbaijan ensures the security and integrity of its territory on legal grounds, Musavat, 04.08.2022, https://musavat.com/news/vugar-rehimzade-azerbaycan-oz-erazilerinin-tehlukesizliyini-ve-butovluyunu-qanuni-esaslarla-temin-edir_910391.html

⁵¹ Genghis Khanizadeh, Operation "Revenge" also confirmed that Azerbaijan has a say in the territory of Karabakh, Musavat, 04.08.2022, https://musavat.com/news/azerbaycanin-qarabag-erazisinde-soz-sahibi-oldugunu-qisas-emeliyyati-da-tesdiqledi_910288.html?d=1

⁵² Sohrab Ismail, The voice of "Revenge" comes from London - Turkish general, Axar.az, 05.08.2022, <https://axar.az/news/siyaset/665731.html>

⁵³ Mirzali Mahammad, [@Mirzali_FR], 07.08.2022, Az soldier took out the head of a corpse from one of the graves in Arm cemetery, first burned it, then tied it to the back of a car and carried joyfully. Will someone put a stop to this inhuman treatment? isn't there a smart commander among these soldiers to stop them?! [tweet], Twitter, https://twitter.com/Mirzali_FR/status/1556354614123012096?s=20&t=LBUjmuDyldow4mdTjhjEA



Picture 16. Patch with the inscription "Armenian, don't run! You'll die anyway, just exhausted."

In another picture it is seen an Azerbaijani army uniform patch with an image of notorious Ottoman genocidaire Enver Pasha and with the inscription "Armenian, don't run! You'll die anyway, just exhausted."⁵⁴

The monitoring of the Media shows that Azerbaijan openly disregards the December 7, 2021 order of the ICJ and particularly the second point, according to which Azerbaijan must “refrain from engaging in or tolerating hate speech against Armenians... punishing all acts of racial discrimination, both public and private, against Armenians, including those taken by public officials.”⁵⁵

⁵⁴ Artyom Tonoyan, [@ArtyomTonoyan], 03.08.2022, As Azerbaijan reverts to type and attacks Armenian positions in Nagorno-Karabakh, here is a an army uniform patch making rounds on Azeri socials. An image of notorious Ottoman genocidaire Enver Pasha with the inscription "Armenian, don't run! You'll die anyway, just exhausted," [tweet], Twitter,

<https://twitter.com/ArtyomTonoyan/status/1554843631705591816?s=20&t=SNA34KrTO-hdHKGFAq4zOA>

⁵⁵Application of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination,(Armenia v. Azerbaijan), ICJ order, 07.12.2022, <https://www.icj-cij.org/public/files/case-related/180/180-20211207-ORD-01-00-EN.pdf>

Section 5. The necessity of actions to increase the effectiveness of the Russian peacekeeping mission

According to the Statement of November 9, 2020, “the peacemaking forces of the Russian Federation, namely, 1,960 troops armed with firearms, 90 armoured vehicles and 380 motor vehicles and units of special equipment, shall be deployed along the contact line in Nagorno-Karabakh and along the Lachin Corridor. The peacemaking forces of the Russian Federation shall be deployed concurrently with the withdrawal of the Armenian troops. The peacemaking forces of the Russian Federation will be deployed for five years, a term to be automatically extended for subsequent five-year terms unless either Party notifies about its intention to terminate this clause six months before the expiration of the current term.”⁵⁶

The statement clarifies only the number of troops and the period of operation of the mission, while other issues related to the functions of the mission remain uncertain. However, considering the essence of the peacekeeping mission itself, we can get the frame of the legal regulation of the functions. Unquestionably, it must serve the main purpose of the UN Charter- the maintenance of international peace and security, and must guarantee human rights and fundamental freedoms in accordance with the UN Charter and general principles of international law.

The functions of peacekeeping missions have been expanded to include a number of more practical and flexible actions, such as protecting civilians, actively preventing conflict, reducing violence, and guaranteeing fundamental human rights.⁵⁷

The UN has set 3 main principles of peacekeeping mission: 1) consent of the parties, 2) impartiality, and 3) non-use of force except in self-defense and defense of the mandate.⁵⁸ Peacekeepers are authorized to take all necessary steps, including the use of force, to defend the mandate. “A peacekeeping operation should only use force as a measure of last resort. It should always be calibrated in a precise, proportional, and appropriate manner, within the principle of the minimum force necessary to achieve the desired effect.”⁵⁹

Considering that during Azerbaijani provocations, Russian peacekeeping forces always refrain from using force justifying it by having no authority, the absence of a specified mandate for peacekeepers nearly two years after the deployment raises concerns,

⁵⁶ Statement by President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia and President of the Russian Federation, President of Russia, 10.11.2020, <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/64384>

⁵⁷What we do, United Nations peacekeeping, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-we-do#:~:text=Peacekeepers%20protect%20civilians%2C%20actively%20prevent,that%20supports%20the%20political%20strategy>.

⁵⁸ Principles of Peacekeeping, United Nations Peacekeeping, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/principles-of-peacekeeping>

⁵⁹ Id.

as it leads to a serious disruption of the essence of the mission and calls into question the effectiveness of protecting the rights of the civilian population.

It is also concerning that till now no unified procedure for the entry permit to Artsakh has been developed, as a result of which, some citizens of the Republic of Armenia, without any explanation, are not allowed to enter Artsakh. Some of the recent incidents when Russian peacekeepers prohibited entry to Artsakh at the checkpoint happened with the first foreign minister of Armenia and the founder of the "Heritage" party Raffi Hovhannisyan,⁶⁰ journalists Zhirayr Voskanyan and Ani Gevorgyan.⁶¹ All this is in contradiction with the spirit of the principles of equal treatment and prohibition of arbitrariness, and, thus, gives rise to serious concerns.

⁶⁰ Raffi Hovhannisyan was not allowed to enter Artsakh, Armtimes.com, 01.08.2022
<https://www.armtimes.com/hy/article/241679>

⁶¹Ani Gevorgyan, The Russian peacekeepers do not allow me to enter Artsakh, Facebook, 07.08.2022,
[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0HnpeoET81EeRUw6kfbKD5aHGTTewRg4oUj2vgGSJthRkLhDXhsWREZTXQH8N9MCI&id=100001991456550&_cft__\[0\]=AZW2Abrl4n6Xo2j-3NE4GLmSiTntl8nlfcpuU34ajnEK3VMqgVla3KBI7OqKZjJ84KYGQwXB-K21wEVEYnf63Vs5jN2aTC6yv7Q_BLNWaplM1trJpLFbm5XJ3XIDQI5hTac&__tn__=%2C0%2CP-R](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=pfbid0HnpeoET81EeRUw6kfbKD5aHGTTewRg4oUj2vgGSJthRkLhDXhsWREZTXQH8N9MCI&id=100001991456550&_cft__[0]=AZW2Abrl4n6Xo2j-3NE4GLmSiTntl8nlfcpuU34ajnEK3VMqgVla3KBI7OqKZjJ84KYGQwXB-K21wEVEYnf63Vs5jN2aTC6yv7Q_BLNWaplM1trJpLFbm5XJ3XIDQI5hTac&__tn__=%2C0%2CP-R)

Recommendations

- 1. To the UN, OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, representatives of international organizations and human rights organizations:*

To condemn Azerbaijan's policy of ethnic cleansing against the people of Artsakh and take steps to counteract this criminal policy. To assess the criminal activities of Azerbaijan not as separate, local incidents, but as part of a systematic and widespread criminal policy.
- 2. To the authorities of the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia and the leadership of the Russian peacekeeping forces stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh:*

To take effective states to remove Azerbaijani military positions that directly target the civilian communities of Artsakh disrupting the normal daily life of civilians and threatening their rights to life, physical and mental security.
- 3. To the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs and international organizations:*

To directly condemn any case of the use and threat of force by Azerbaijan. To stop Azerbaijan's criminal behavior using all necessary mechanisms.
- 4. To the authorities of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Russian peacekeeping forces stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh:*

To take actions intended to withdraw the Azerbaijani armed forces from the area of responsibility of the Russian peacekeeping mission, allowing the forcibly displaced civilians to return their homes.
- 5. To the OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs, authorities of the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia:*

To exclude the possibility of changing the legal status of the Lachin Corridor through political and diplomatic means, ensuring the security guarantees for the corridor fixed in the November 9 Statement.
- 6. To the authorities of the Republic of Artsakh and the leadership of the Russian peacekeeping forces stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh:*

To protect Artsakh from infrastructural vulnerability, investigate intentional disruptions, and hold perpetrators accountable for minimizing the risks of a humanitarian crisis in Artsakh and for guaranteeing respect for basic human rights.
- 7. To the authorities of the Republic of Artsakh and the Republic of Armenia and international humanitarian organizations:*

To assess the urgent needs of people displaced from Berdzor, Aghavno, and Sus, and provide them with all the necessary conditions of living, food, and hygiene.

8. *To international organizations and the leadership of the Russian peacekeeping forces stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh:*

To take effective steps to ensure the entry of international organizations, particularly organizations with a humanitarian mandate, as well as UNESCO, into the regions of the Republic of Artsakh currently occupied by Azerbaijan. Carry out monitoring of the Armenian cultural heritage and graves that are in the territories occupied by Azerbaijan for preventing their further desecration, complete or partial destruction. To give a clear assessment of the crimes already committed.

9. *To international organizations:*

To take effective steps to stop the state-level propaganda of Armenophobia in Azerbaijan. Investigate cases of hate speech and other manifestations of Armenian hatred by state officials, other influential people in society, and the Media.

10. *To the UN, OSCE Minsk Group co-chairs and the authorities of the Republic of Armenia and the Russian Federation:*

To clarify the scope (mandate) of the actions of the Russian peacekeeping forces in case of ceasefire violations, and particularly, in case of open aggression, based on the purpose of the UN Charter, general principles of international law, and fundamental human rights and freedoms.

11. *To the authorities of the Republic of Artsakh and the leadership of the Russian peacekeeping forces stationed in Nagorno-Karabakh:*

To develop and carry out a unified procedure for issuing an entry permit to Artsakh, based on the legislation of the Republic of Artsakh, to exclude arbitrariness and violations of the principle of equal treatment.

12. *To international organizations and foreign countries:*

To recognize the inalienable right of the people of Artsakh to self-determination, as a non-negotiable value, as the guarantee of fundamental human rights and security, and as the only real guarantee for the existence of the people of Artsakh in their historical homeland.